



March 8, 2016

*Marine Fisheries*  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Senator Jean Preston 10-Year Plan



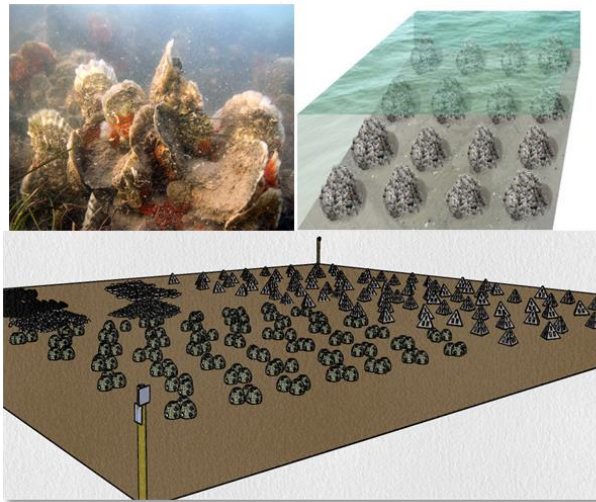
# *Senator Jean Preston Oyster Sanctuary 10-Year Plan*

The N.C. General Assembly's 2015 Session, Session Law 2015-241 states that it is the intent of the General Assembly "to enhance shellfish habitat within the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds and their tributaries to benefit fisheries, water quality, and the economy."

1. Location and delineation of oyster sanctuaries
2. Enhancement of oyster habitat
3. Economic relief for shellfish aquaculture
4. Outreach and education
5. Monitoring
6. Funding



# *What are oyster sanctuaries and cultch planting sites?*





# *How do we compare in cultch planting and restoration?*



## North Carolina

- In FY 2014/2015 approximately \$300,000 to purchase cultch
- In FY 2015/2016 approximately \$600,000 to purchase cultch
- In FY 2016/2017 approximately \$900,000 to purchase cultch

## Virginia

- Approximately \$2.3 million annually to purchase cultch

## Maryland

- In 2014, \$24.57 million was spent on one project with the state providing \$19.4 million on material and construction

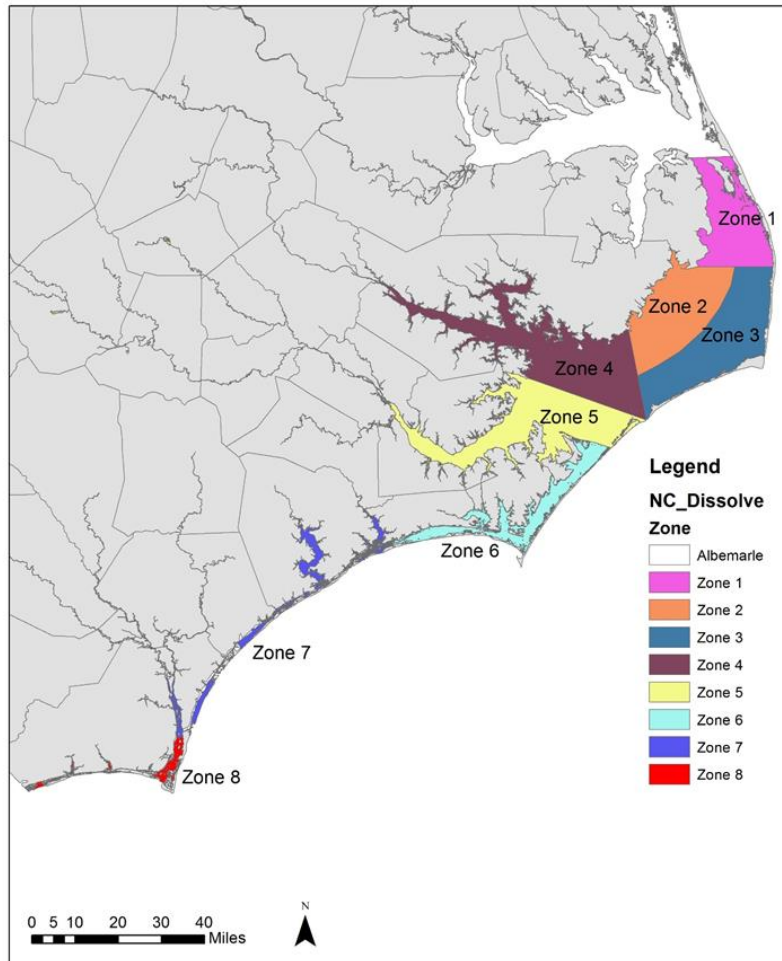
## Gulf States

- Spending millions of dollars annually through mitigation funds



# Recommendations

## North Carolina Oyster Restoration Regions



- Zones 1-5 would be targeted for oyster sanctuary construction activities
- Zones 1,2,4, and 5 would be targeted for large scale cultch planting projects
- Zones 1-8 would be targeted for small cultch planting sites
- How would locations be sited?
  - Through public meetings
  - Stakeholders
- Sites would be located so they are accessible by oystermen and recreational fishermen
- Albemarle Sound is not a priority at this time
  - Closed due to sampling
  - Salinity



## *Recommendations to implement 10-year plan*

- Develop 500 acres of oyster sanctuaries
- Develop 800 acres of cultch sites
- Investigate new methods for shellfish restoration
- New sampling programs
- Shell budgets
- Expand Marine Patrol and Shellfish Rehabilitation Program staff
- Increase fines and penalties for poaching
- Partner with non-profits to leverage resources
- Fund rollover
- Exemption from state permits for processed recycled concrete

At this time the Division is not requesting appropriation for FY 16-17



# Questions

